

EDWARD TUCKERMAN.

I. Biographical Sketch.

[The following sketch is condensed from the notice of Dr. Tuckerman in the *Amherst Record* of March 17, which we understand is from the pen of Prof. Tyler.—EDS.]

Edward Tuckerman, professor of botany in Amherst College, died on Monday the 15th instant, at his residence in Amherst, of which town he was a citizen for more than thirty years.

Edward Tuckerman was the eldest child of Edward and Sophia (May) Tuckerman, and was born in Boston December 7, 1817; prepared for college at Ingraham's school and the Boston Latin school; entered the Sophomore class at Union College 1834, being graduated B. A. in 1837. Thence he proceeded to Cambridge and entered the Harvard Law School, taking the degree LL. B. in 1839. He remained at the Law School till 1841, during which time he took a special course at the Divinity School, and then went abroad and studied several years in Germany, devoting himself particularly to the study of history, philosophy and botany.

Returning to this country, he joined the Senior class of Harvard College, being led to that step by friendship for several of its members, and graduated with them the following year. He subsequently received the degree of M. A. from both Harvard and Union, and LL. D. from Amherst. A taste for the natural sciences very early manifested itself, and during his course at Union College he was appointed curator of the museums. His connection with Amherst College dates from 1854, the years previous being spent in the pursuit of his favorite studies at Cambridge. In Amherst he held the position of lecturer in history from 1854-55, and again from 1858-1873, and professor of Oriental history from 1855-58. It was not till 1858 that he was appointed to the chair of botany, which he held thereafter till the day of his death.

He was married May 17, 1854, at Boston, to Sarah Eliza Sigourney, daughter of Thomas P. Cushing, and leaves no children.

Professor Tuckerman was a student all his life, and studies once begun were never relinquished till feebleness and the inroads of disease compelled him to lay them aside. He was a specialist, and yet he was not one, for he was a scholar in the truest sense of the word, and his attainments were as wide and varied as his reading. His linguistic acquirements were remarkable, and his literary correspondence with foreign scientists was carried on in other languages than his own. In his use of words he was espe-

cially nice and discriminating, selecting those which best interpreted the meaning he wished to convey, and frequently anticipating their use, giving them a force which has since been recognized and accepted.

His literary work commenced at the age of fifteen, and between 1834 and 1841 we find him contributing to the *Churchman* a series of fifty-four articles entitled "Notitia Literaria" and "Adversaria," embracing a wide range in criticism, biography and theology. As we read their pages we scarcely know which to wonder at most, the extent and thoroughness of his reading, or the ripeness and maturity of his expression. The boy of seventeen was a full grown man in the stature of his thought, and we can well understand the astonishment with which he was regarded when he first presented himself before the scholars with whom he had long been in correspondence. This same interest in general literature followed him through his life. In 1865 he edited a reprint of "New England Rarities" by John Joselyn, Gent. [A few pages of this quaint volume are devoted to descriptions of plants, most of the species intended being identified by the editor.] Scattered through the publications of the Antiquarian and Genealogical Societies will be found many of his contributions, and recently he has written several articles, chiefly criticisms, in the *Church Eclectic*.

Notwithstanding his close and unwearied application to the chosen study of his life, he still found time to keep abreast of the literature of the day in theology, history and travel. He was a pioneer in the study of the flora of the White mountains, and the ravine which bears his name and the contributions to Starr King's "White Hills" will be a lasting monument to the enthusiastic student who so thoroughly explored them. His scholarly ability was recognized at home and abroad by election to membership in many literary and scientific societies.

II. Bibliographical Sketch.

HENRY WILLEY.

[No attempt is made in the following sketch to enumerate anything but the scientific writings of Dr. Tuckerman.]

Prof. Tuckerman commenced the study of lichens in 1838, and made explorations in the vicinity of Boston and in the White mountains. The results of these studies appeared in the *Journal* of the Boston Society of Natural History under the following titles: "An enumeration of some lichens of New England," read Dec. 5, 1838, vol. ii. pp. 245-261; "A further enumeration," etc.,